

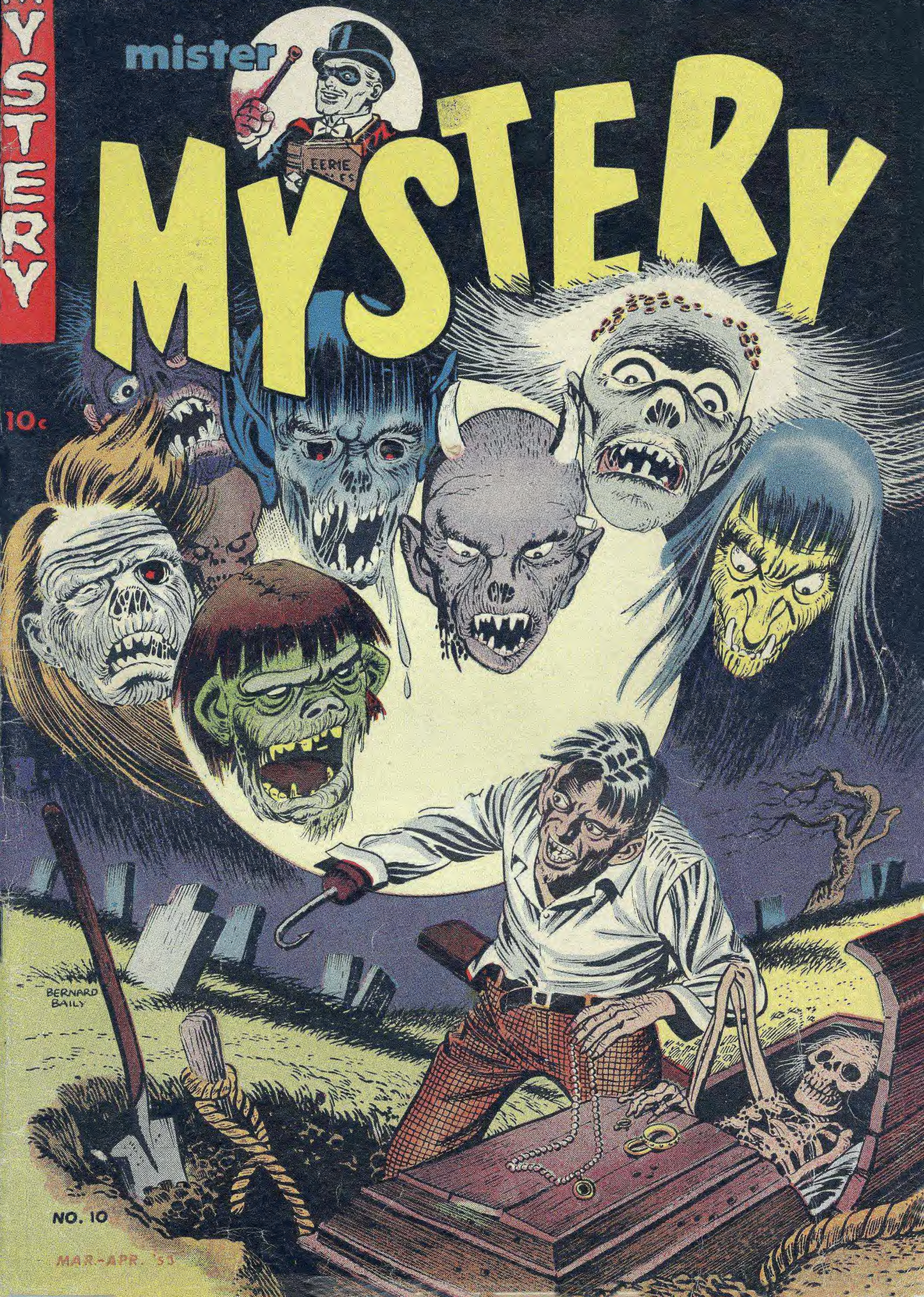
MYSTERY

TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE!

mister

# MYSTERY

10c



BERNARD  
BAILEY

NO. 10

MAR-APR 1953



**WEB COMIC  
UNIVERSE.COM**



# STOP SMOKING

**TOBACCO COUGH—TOBACCO HEART—TOBACCO BREATH—TOBACCO NERVES...  
NEW, SAFE FORMULA HELPS YOU BREAK HABIT IN JUST 7 DAYS**



## • YOU CAN STOP

- Tobacco Nerves  
STOP
- Tobacco Breath  
STOP
- Tobacco Cough  
STOP
- Burning Mouth  
Due To Smoking  
STOP
- Hot Burning Tongue  
Due To Smoking  
STOP
- Poisonous Nicotine  
Due To Smoking  
STOP
- Tobacco expense

No matter how long you have been a victim of the expensive, unhealthful nicotine and smoke habit, this amazing scientific (easy to use) 7-day formula will help you to stop smoking—IN JUST SEVEN Days! Countless thousands who have broken the vicious Tobacco Habit now feel better, look better—actually feel healthier because they breath clean, cool fresh air into their lungs instead of the stultifying Tobacco tar, Nicotine, and Benzo Pyrene—all these irritants that come from cigarettes and cigars. You can't lose anything but the Tobacco Habit by trying this amazing, easy method—You Can Stop Smoking!

## SEND NO MONEY

**Aver. 1½-Pack per Day Smoker  
Spends \$125.90 per Year**

Let us prove to you that smoking is nothing more than a repulsive habit that sends unhealthful impurities into your mouth, throat and lungs . . . a habit that does you no good and may result in harmful physical reactions. Spend those tobacco \$\$\$ on useful, healthgiving benefits for yourself and your loved ones. Send NO Money! Just mail the Coupon on our absolute Money-Back Guarantee that this 7-Day test will help banish your desire for tobacco—not for days or weeks, but FOREVER! Mail the coupon today.

## HOW HARMFUL ARE CIGARETTES AND CIGARS?

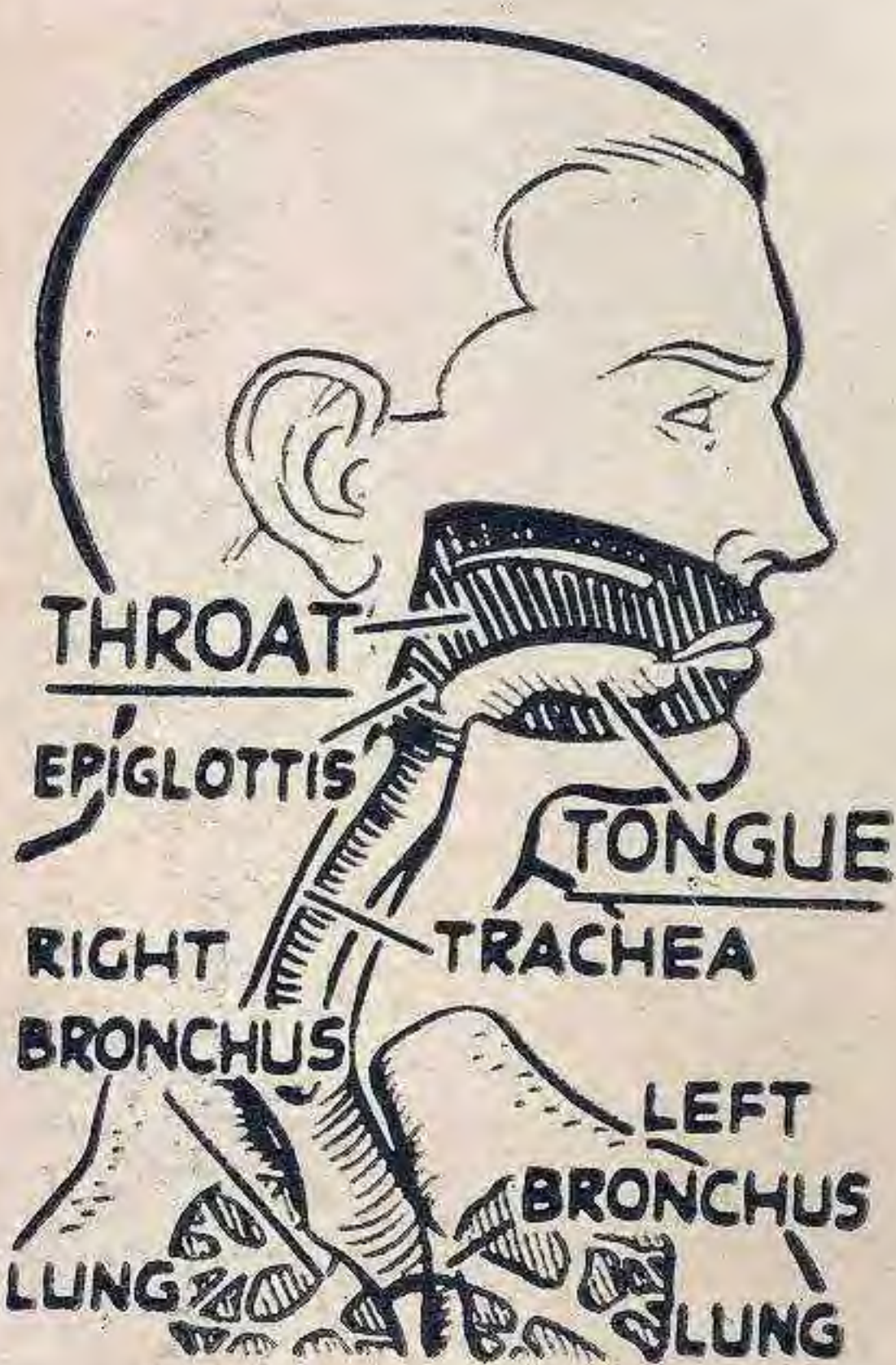
Numerous Medical Papers have been written about the evil, harmful effects of Tobacco Breath, Tobacco Heart, Tobacco Lungs, Tobacco Mouth, Tobacco Nervousness . . . Now, here at last is the amazing easy-to-take scientific discovery that helps destroy your desire to smoke in just 7 Days—or it won't cost you one cent. Mail the coupon today—the only thing you can loose is the offensive, expensive, unhealthful smoking habit!

## ATTENTION DOCTORS:

Doctor, we can help you, too! Many Doctors are unwilling victims to the repulsive Tobacco Habit. We make the guarantee to you, too, Doctor. (A Guarantee that most Doctors dare not make to their own patients) . . . If this sensational discovery does not banish your craving for tobacco forever . . . your money cheerfully refunded.



**YOU WILL LOSE THE DESIRE TO SMOKE IN 7 DAYS . . . OR NO COST TO YOU**



## Here's What Happens When You Smoke . . .

The nicotine laden smoke you inhale becomes deposited on your throat and lungs . . . (The average Smoker does this 300 times a day!) Nicotine irritates the Mucous Membranes of the respiratory tract and Tobacco Tar injures those membranes. Stop Tobacco Cough, Tobacco Heart, Tobacco Breath . . . Banish smoking forever, or no cost to you. Mail the coupon now.

Don't be a slave to tobacco. . . . Enjoy your right to clean, healthful, natural living. Try this amazing discovery for just 7-Days. . . . Easy to take, pleasant, no after-taste. If you haven't broken the smoking habit forever . . . return empty carton in 10 Days for prompt refund. Mail the coupon now.

## STOP SMOKING—MAIL COUPON NOW!

### DOCTOR'S ORDERS PRODUCTS

7-Day Tobacco Curb—Dept. 38, ☒ SENT TO YOU IN  
6349 North Western Avenue PLAIN WRAPPER  
Chicago 45, Illinois

On your 10-Day Money-Back Guarantee send me Doctor's Orders 7-Day Tobacco Curb. If not entirely satisfied I can return for prompt refund.

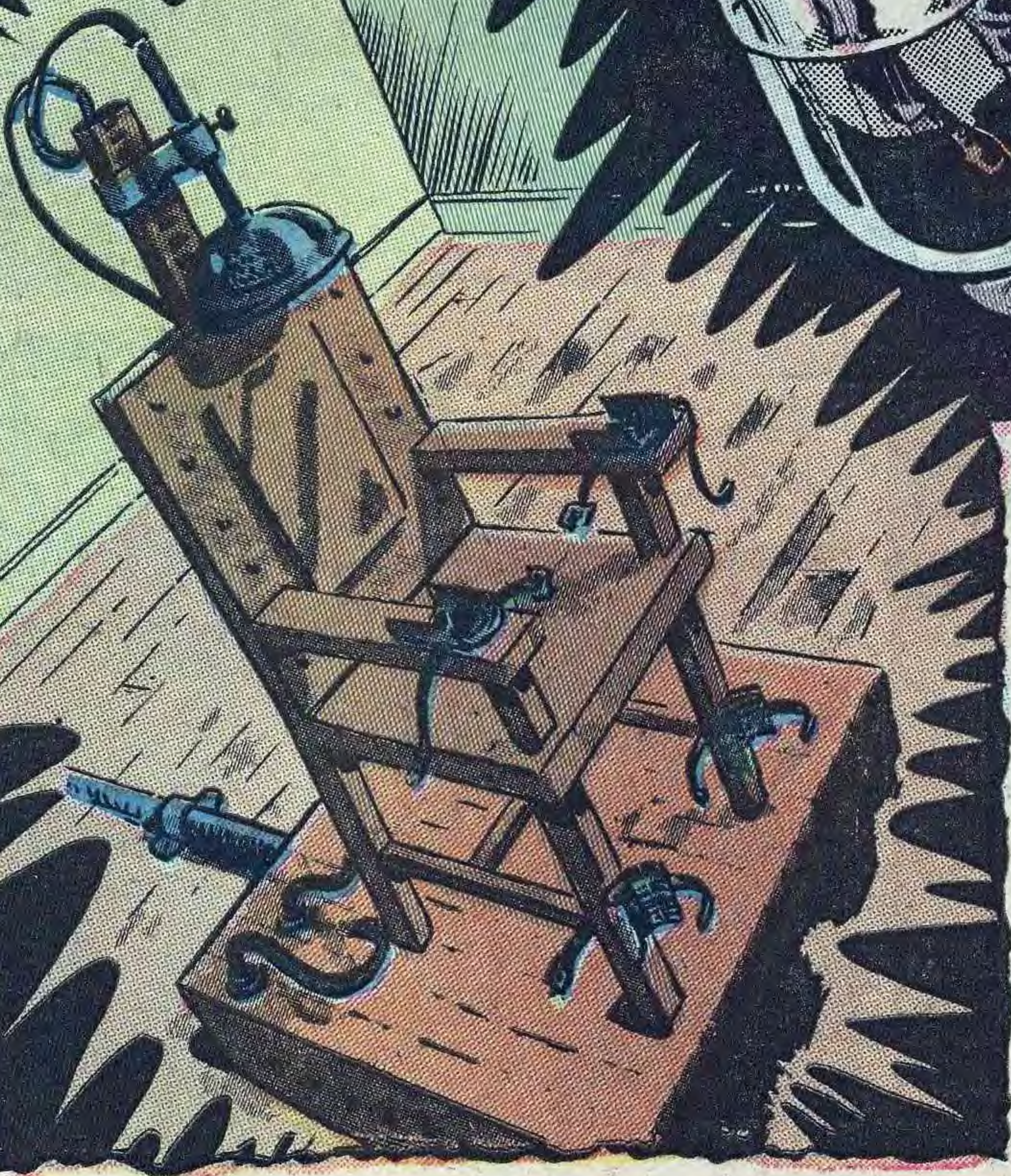
- ☐ Send 7-Day Supply, I will pay Postman \$2.00 plus Postage and C.O.D. Charges.  
Save 45c on C.O.D. Money Order Fee and Postage by sending cash with Order. Same Money-Back Guarantee applies.
- ☐ Enclosed is \$2.00 for 7-Day Supply, you pay postage costs.
- ☐ Enclosed is \$4.00 for 2 boxes of the 7-Day Supply for myself and a loved one. You pay postage costs.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ ZONE \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_



WHAT DOES A MAN THINK OF WHEN HE'S GOING TO DIE IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR? OF HIS CRIME? NO! OF HIS LIFE? NO! HE THINKS OF **ESCAPE!** THIS IS A STORY OF SUCH AN ESCAPE... OF A MAN WHO PUT HIS FAITH IN A...

# CAPSULE!



OUR STORY STARTS AT THE STATE PRISON...





**IN THE DEATH CELL, TO BE EXACT! THE CELL OF JOHNNY KILEY... MURDERER!**



ONLY **THREE DAYS LEFT** AND STILL NO WORD FROM DOC... I'M BEGINNING TO WORRY!



HE'D BETTER NOT LET ME DOWN! I'M NOT GONNA DIE... NOT ME, NOT JOHNNY KILEY!



UUUUGGHH! A **MOUSE!** THINGS AREN'T BAD ENOUGH NOW-- I GOTTA HAVE COMPANY IN MY CELL! BUT I'M CHOOSEY, SO IT AIN'T GONNA BE YOU!



GUESS IT'S JUST MY **NERVES!** THIS STIR'LL DRIVE ANYONE **CRAZY!** DOC'LL COME THROUGH... PROBABLY NEEDS A LITTLE MORE **TIME!**



THE NEXT MORNING-- TWO DAYS LEFT!

WHAT DO YOU WANT, COPPER? CAME TO LOOK AT THE **CONDEMNED MAN?**

NAAW, YOU DON'T INTEREST ME, PUNK! YOU'VE GOT A **VISITOR,** THAT'S ALL!





ALL RIGHT, KILEY, FIVE MINUTES. THAT'S ALL YOU GET!

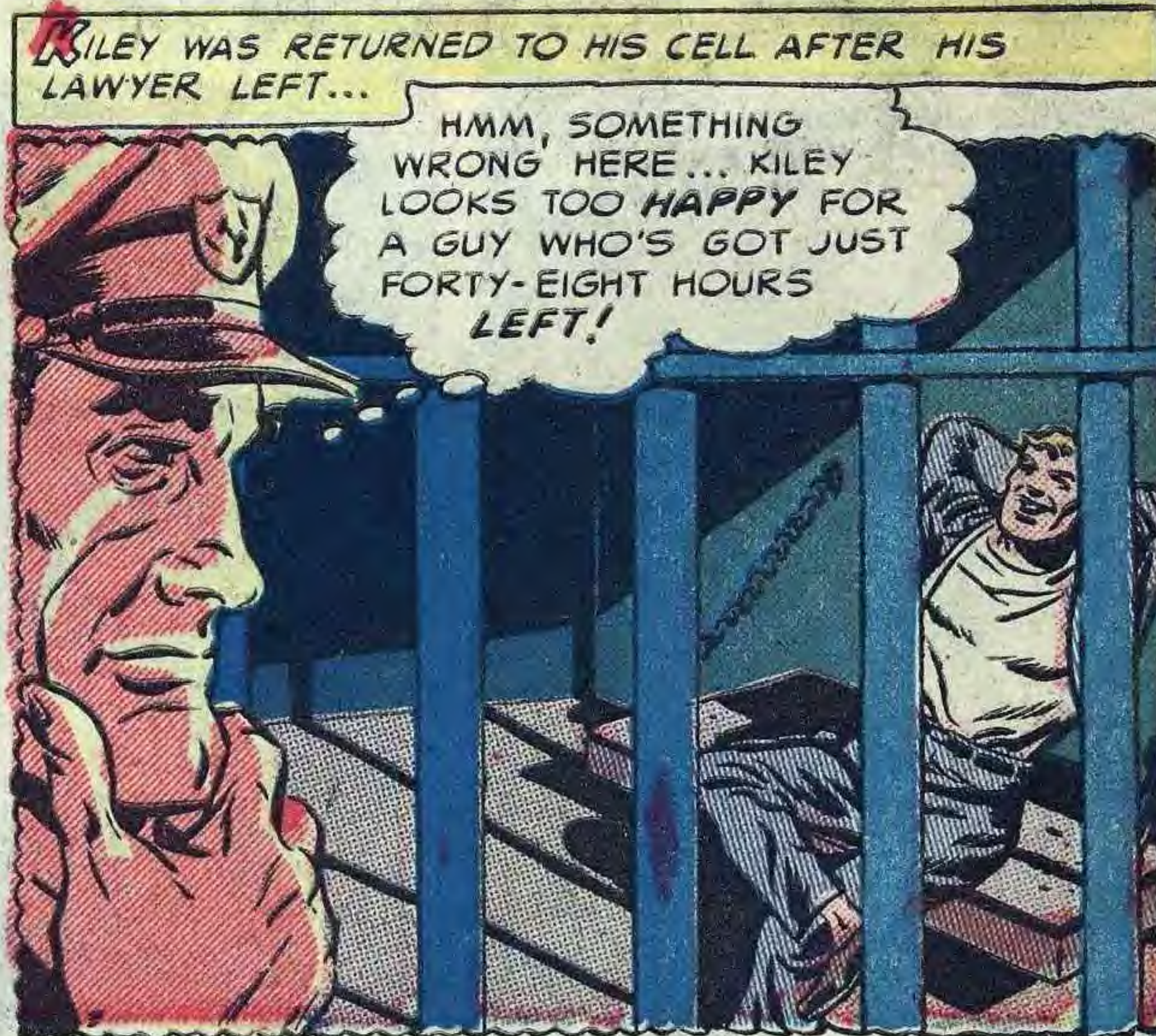
LAWYER CRUMP! I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU... I WANT DOC... WHERE IS HE?

DOC THOUGHT IT WISER IF HE LEFT EVERYTHING UP TO ME! I HAVE THE CAPSULE IN MY HAND!



QUICK, PASS IT OVER! THE GUARD'S NOT WATCHING!

GOOD! IF THIS WORKS LIKE IT DID ON DOC'S MICE WE'LL HAVE EVERY PRISON IN THE COUNTRY EMPTY IN A MONTH!



KILEY WAS RETURNED TO HIS CELL AFTER HIS LAWYER LEFT...

HMM, SOMETHING WRONG HERE... KILEY LOOKS TOO HAPPY FOR A GUY WHO'S GOT JUST FORTY-EIGHT HOURS LEFT!



THAT'S RIGHT, OFFICER, KILEY WAS HAPPY! AND HE HAD EVERY RIGHT TO BE! FOR IN THAT FLEETING SECOND LAWYER CRUMP HAD GIVEN HIM HIS TICKET TO FREEDOM! A TICKET THAT WAS WRAPPED UP INSIDE A TINY CAPSULE!

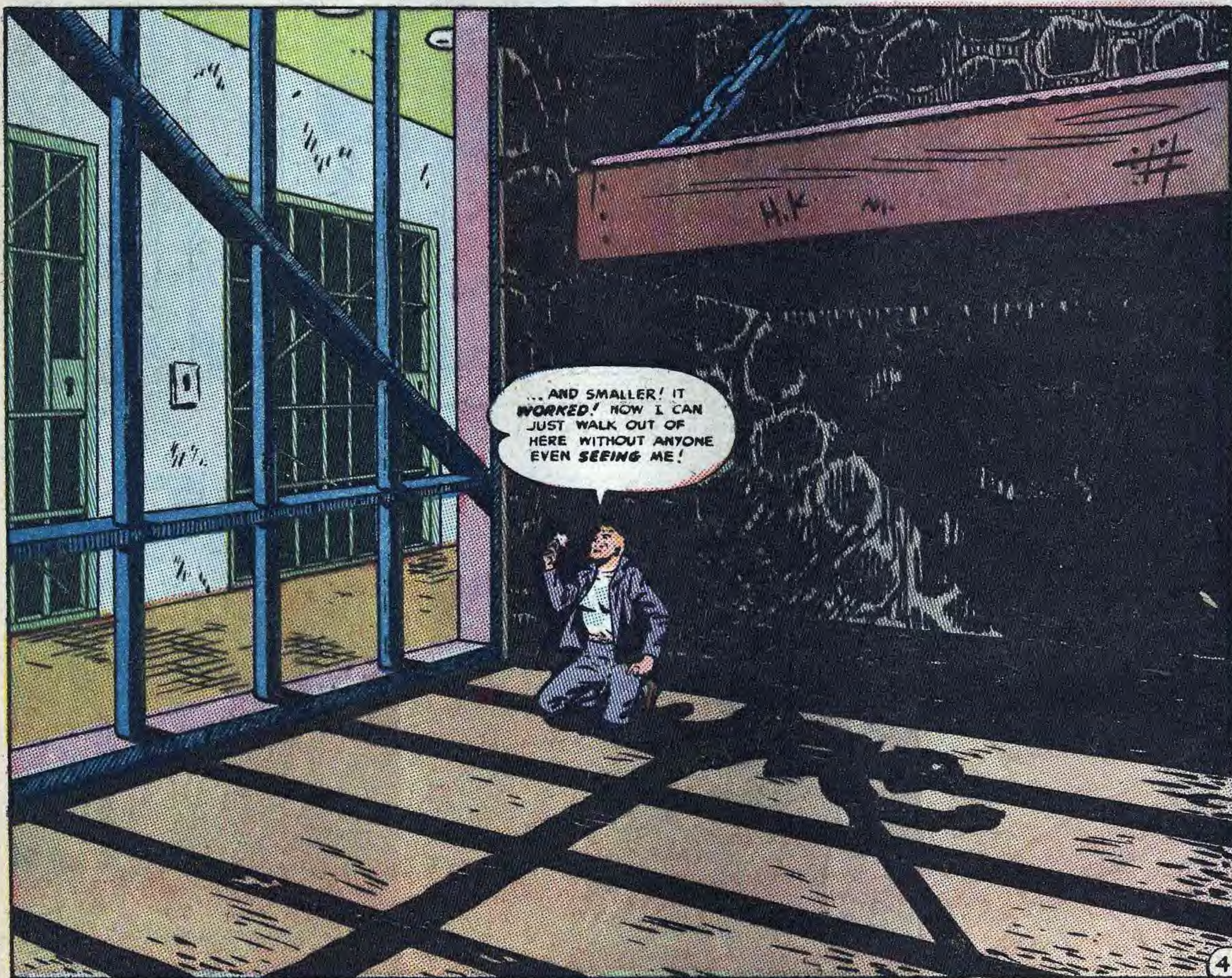


GOOD OLD DOC, I KNEW HE WOULDN'T LET ME DOWN! NOW ALL I GOTTA DO IS SWALLOW THIS...



... WELL, HERE GOES NOTHING!







YES, IT WORKED... AND KILEY BECAME SMALL -- EVEN SMALLER THAN...



...THE MOUSE!  
IT'S...

NO... NO... DON'T... DON'T...  
AAARRRGH!



I TELL YOU,  
CAPTAIN... HE  
WAS JUST TOO  
HAPPY TO  
SUIT ME!

LOOK! THE  
CELL'S EMPTY...  
HE'S **GONE!**



BUT IT WAS  
**LOCKED!** HOW  
COULD HE HAVE  
GOTTEN OUT?

HE COULDN'T  
HAVE ... SOME-  
THIN' WEIRD  
ABOUT THIS...



OH, WELL-- THE  
BEST LAID PLANS  
OF **MICE** AND  
**MEN**... KILEY  
THOUGHT HE  
WAS THE WHOLE  
**CHEESE**... AND THEN,  
HE ALWAYS DID CALL HIS  
CELL A **MOUSETRAP**  
DIDN'T HE? HEH...  
HEH... HEH...



The End



# KILL THESE HAIR-DESTROYING GERMS

WITH WARD'S FORMULA



NOTHING, Absolutely nothing known to Science can do more to

## SAVE YOUR HAIR

Beware of your itchy scalp, hair loss, dandruff, head scales, unpleasant head odors! Nature may be warning you of approaching baldness. Heed Nature's warning! Treat your scalp to scientifically prepared Ward's Formula.

Millions of trouble-breeding bacteria, living on your sick scalp (see above) are killed on contact. Ward's Formula kills not one, but *all four* types of these destructive scalp germs now recognized by many medical authorities as a significant cause of baldness. Kill these germs—don't risk letting them kill your hair growth.

### ENJOY THESE 5 BENEFITS IMMEDIATELY

1. Kills these 4 types of germs that retard normal hair growth—on contact
2. Removes ugly infectious dandruff—fast
3. Brings hair-nourishing blood to scalp—quickly
4. Stops annoying scalp itch and burn—instantly
5. Starts wonderful self-massaging action—within 3 seconds

Once you're bald, that's *it*, friends! There's nothing you can do. Your hair is gone forever. So are your chances of getting it back. But Ward's Formula, used as directed, keeps your sick scalp free of itchy dandruff, seborrhea, and stops the hair loss they cause. Almost at once your hair looks thicker, more attractive and alive.

We don't ask you to believe *us*. Thousands of men and women—first skeptical just as you are—have *proved* what we say. Read their grateful letters. Study the guarantee—it's *better* than a free trial! Then try Ward's Formula at *our* risk. Use it for only 10 short days. You must enjoy *all* the benefits we claim—or we return not only the price you pay—but **DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK**. You be the judge! Ward Laboratories, Inc., 1430 Broadway, New York 18, N.Y.

### TO SAVE YOUR HAIR ACT NOW

Send coupon today for 10-day offer. Send No Money

I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.

E. K., Cleveland, Ohio

Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the most help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.

C. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.

After using Ward's for only 12 days, my hair has stopped falling out.

R. W. C., Cicero, Ill.

I am tickled to death with the results. In just two weeks' time—no dandruff! W. T. W., Portola, Cal. I feel encouraged to say that the infuriating scalp itch which has bothered me for 5 years is now gone.

J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

**Proof!**  
We get letters like these every day from grateful men and women all over the world.

### Guarantee

This written guarantee entitles you not only to return of price paid for Ward's Formula, but **Double Your Money Back** unless you actually **SEE, FEEL and ENJOY** all benefits herein claimed in only ten days. The test is at our risk. All you do is return unused portion of the empty bottle unless completely satisfied.

Ward Laboratories, Inc.

© 1949

ACT TODAY or YOU MAY BE TOO LATE!

Ward Laboratories, Inc.,  
1430 Broadway, Dept. 6101-W, New York 18, N.Y.

Rush Ward's Formula to me at once. I will pay postman two dollars plus postage. I must be completely satisfied within 10 days, or you **GUARANTEE** refund of **DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK** upon return of bottle and unused portion.

Name .....  
Address .....  
City ..... Zone ..... State .....

☐ Check here if you enclose \$2.00 with order, and we will pay postage. Same refund offer holds, of course.

APO, FPO, Canada & Foreign add 25c; no CODs.

**DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEE**



Don't want to influence any of you, but you gotta watch out for these arty guys. **THEY'LL REALLY KILL YA** if you aren't ready for them. Here's a tantalizing tale about one of them, I call it...

# MODERN DESIGN!



MAYBE THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T SELL ANY OF IT... NOBODY CAN UNDERSTAND IT!

BUT THEY WILL! JUST GIVE THEM TIME! AND ONCE IT CATCHES ON IT'LL SELL LIKE WILD-FIRE! WE'LL BE ON TOP OF THE WORLD BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!

YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THAT FOR OVER THREE YEARS NOW! I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER! SOMETHING BETTER HAPPEN... AND SOON!

IT WILL, DARLING, IT WILL! JUST GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME... THAT'S ALL I NEED... A LITTLE MORE TIME...





HEH...HEH...HEH...WE MEN WILL NEVER LEARN, WILL WE? YOU JUST CAN'T ARGUE WITH A WOMAN! LONNY DIDN'T REALIZE THAT... HE JUST WENT RIGHT ON WORKING... WORKING... WORKING!



I'VE GOT TO BE A SUCCESS, I'VE JUST GOT TO! AND AS SOON AS MY DESIGNS HAVE THEIR EXHIBITION I KNOW I WILL... I CAN'T MISS!



LATER THAT DAY...  
LONNY, I WANT YOU TO MEET MR. STEELE. I TOLD HIM ABOUT YOUR FURNITURE AND HE'S VERY INTERESTED!

AND NOW THAT I SEE IT, I'M EVEN MORE INTERESTED! YOU'VE MADE A SALE, YOUNG LADY!



YOUR WIFE DID QUITE A SELLING JOB ON ME, AND NOW THAT I'VE SEEN THE STYLE I HAVE A COMMISSION FOR YOU... I WANT YOU TO DESIGN A PIECE FOR ME!

OF COURSE, MR. STEELE... ANY TYPE OF FURNITURE THAT YOU WANT. WHAT DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?



WELL, YOUR WIFE HAD SOME WONDERFUL IDEAS FOR A LAMP.

SEE, LONNY, I TOLD YOU I HAD IDEAS TOO... MAYBE THIS TIME YOU'LL PUT **SOMETHING OF ME IN IT!**

WE'LL SEE... WE'LL SEE!



NOW REMEMBER, I'M VERY HARD TO PLEASE. IF I DON'T LIKE THE LAMP I REFUSE TO BUY IT!

OH, I'M SURE YOU'LL LIKE IT!... JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME!



A WHILE LATER...  
IT WORKED! HE DOESN'T SUSPECT THERE'S A THING BETWEEN US!

THAT GUY IS TOO WRAPPED UP IN THAT FURNITURE OF HIS TO SUSPECT ANYTHING! WELL, HERE'S TO SUCCESS IN OUR LITTLE SCHEME!





HEH...HEH...HEH...GET THE PLOT? WELL LONNY DIDN'T... HE WAS TOO HAPPY WORKING ON HIS NEW COMMISSION... AT LAST HE HAD WHAT HE WANTED... SOMEONE INTERESTED IN HIS **MODERN DESIGN!**



WAIT'LL HE SEES THIS! IT'LL KNOCK HIS EYES OUT... THIS SHOULD BE JUST WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR!



**A FEW DAYS LATER...**

HELLO, MR. STEELE... YES, IT'S FINISHED... I'M SURE YOU'LL LIKE IT... OKAY, SEE YOU LATER IN THE AFTERNOON THEN... 'BYE...!



**AND THAT AFTERNOON...**

**THAT MONSTROSITY!** IT'S TERRIBLE!

THIS IS A PIECE OF GARBAGE, ONLY AN IMBECILE COULD THINK OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS! WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO, MAKE MY HOUSE THE LAUGHING STOCK OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

WELL, THERE IT IS! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?

NOTHING AT ALL LIKE WHAT I HAD IN MIND!



BUT YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE... JUST ONE MORE CHANCE, MR. STEELE!

WELL, ALL RIGHT, BUT THIS TIME LISTEN TO YOUR WIFE... PUT **SOMETHING OF HER IN IT!** SHE HAS SUCH WONDERFUL IDEAS!

SEE, I TOLD YOU!



**THAT EVENING...**

DID YOU SEE THE LOOK ON HIS FACE... I'LL NEVER FORGET IT!

I THINK HE'S GOING TO CRACK, RUTH... JUST A FEW MORE INCIDENTS LIKE TODAY AND HE'LL BE A RAVING LUNATIC... THEN THERE'LL BE NOTHING IN OUR WAY... **NOTHING!**





DIABOLICAL SCHEME, EH WHAT? DRIVE A GENIUS MAD BY INSULTING HIS CREATIONS... IT WASN'T HARD TO THINK UP... NOT WHEN YOUR GENIUS WAS LONNY...



I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY MR. STEELE DIDN'T LIKE IT... THAT STUFF IS JUNK... OF WHAT USE IS IT?

YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND. IT'S **FUNCTIONAL!** EVERYTHING HAS A USE... BESIDES THE ORIGINAL BEAUTY OF THE DESIGN!



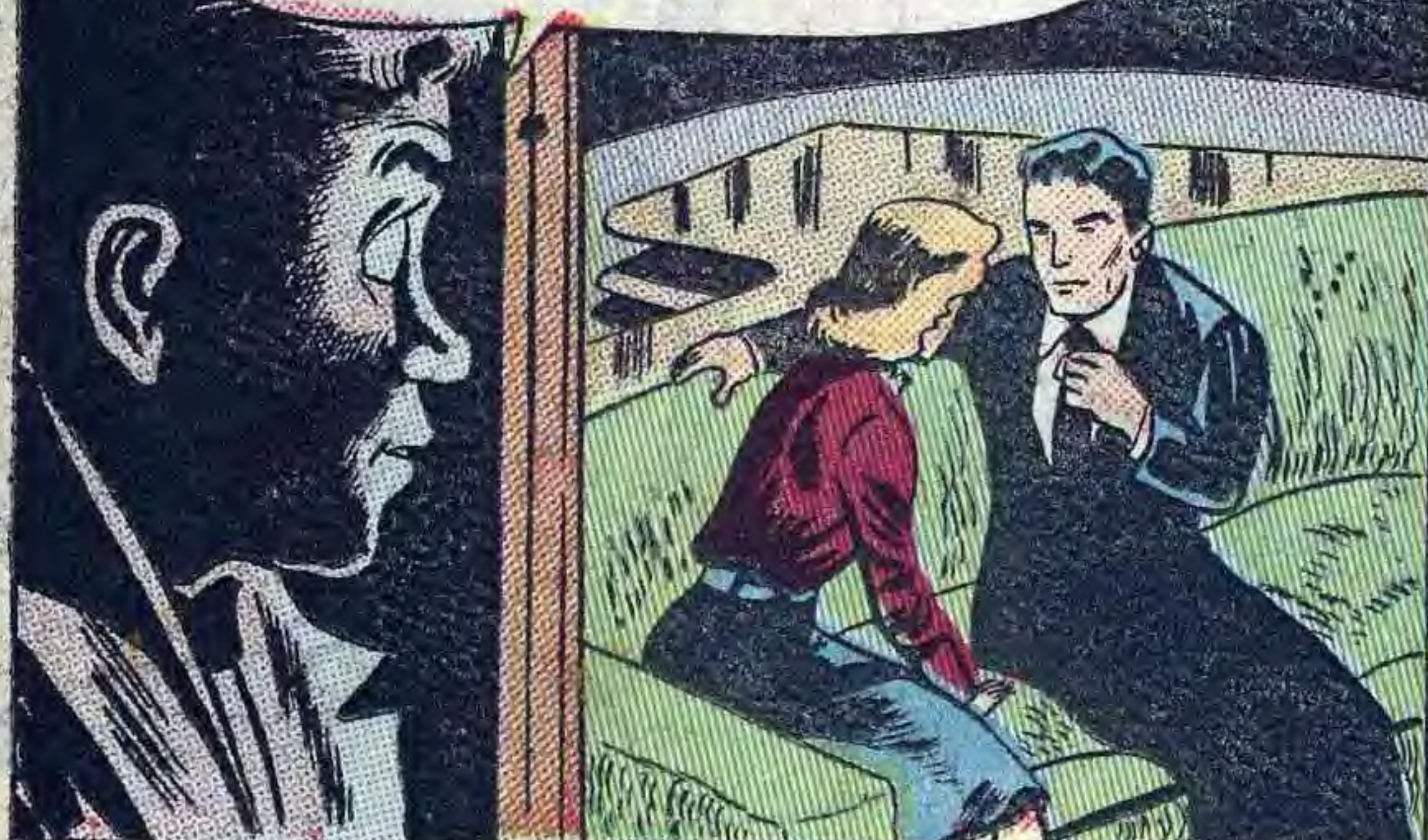
MAYBE YOU'D DO BETTER IF YOU'D LISTEN TO MR. STEELE... **PUT SOME-THING OF ME** IN YOUR WORK... I HAVE SOME GOOD IDEAS, YOU KNOW!

OH LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT IT... BESIDES I HAVE TO GO UPTOWN FOR THE REST OF THE DAY. I'LL BE BACK LATE TONIGHT, SO DON'T WAIT UP FOR ME.



"BUT LONNY FINISHED WORK EARLIER THAN HE THOUGHT, AND RETURNED TO FIND..."

WHY, IT'S MR. STEELE AND RUTH? FUNNY THAT SHE DIDN'T KNOW THAT THIS WAS A TWO-WAY MIRROR... A REAL **FUNCTIONAL** PIECE. WONDER WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT?



BUT IT'S TAKING SO LONG... I DON'T THINK IT'LL WORK!

OF COURSE IT WILL, DARLING... ALL WE NEED IS A LITTLE MORE TIME, THAT'S ALL. HE'LL REALLY CRACK WHEN I TELL HIM WHAT I THINK OF HIS NEXT MODEL!



OH DARLING, I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL WE'RE RID OF HIM... WHY DON'T WE JUST DO AWAY WITH HIM!

THE POLICE MIGHT SUSPECT SOMETHING... THIS IS THE BEST WAY!



I CAN'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH IT... I'VE GOT TO DESTROY THEM... LIKE THEY INTENDED TO DESTROY ME!





THE FURIES OPENED UP AND SPENT THEIR WRATH ON EARTH, FOR SOMEWHERE ON THIS MORTAL SPHERE MAYHEM WAS OCCURING... **MURDER** WAS TAKING PLACE...



LONNY WORKED HARD THE NEXT FEW DAYS, AND THEN...

BUT MR. STEELE ISN'T HOME.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT... HE'S EXPECTING ME! I HAVE SOMETHING FOR HIM! SO I'LL JUST WAIT INSIDE FOR HIM!



A FEW HOURS LATER...

THE MAID TOLD ME THERE'S SOMEONE HERE TO SEE ME... WHO IS IT? WHAT ARE YOU SITTING IN THE DARK FOR?



IT'S ONLY ME, MR. STEELE... LONNY. YES, IT IS RATHER DARK IN HERE. MAYBE I'D BETTER TURN ON YOUR NEW LAMP!



THERE IT IS, MR. STEELE! YOU WANTED SOMETHING OF HER IN IT... WELL NOW YOU'VE GOT IT!



WELL, THAT ENDS OUR LITTLE TALE OF THE FURNITURE MAKER... GOT A LITTLE **STUFFY**, DIDN'T HE... BUT THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR WIFE HAS **DESIGNS** OF HER OWN... HEH... HEH... HEH...





# GHOSTS...WHAT ABOUT THEM?

In our first issue of **MISTER MYSTERY** we discussed eerie events which offered no explanation as to why they occurred. Because of the many letters we received, we have decided to discuss each subject of the supernatural on these pages for your enjoyment. And we will begin with . . . **GHOSTS** !

In this modern day and age, the phrase "Ghost" seems absurd, doesn't it? The era of reasoning and science has banished the ghost to the realm of legend and superstition. And yet the tales recorded here are accepted as genuine experiences. And there can be no reason for doubting these experiences . . . they were certainly real to the people who experienced them. Why should they lie, they had nothing to gain by it. Even so, their stories weren't accepted as true without checking them. But how does one test a ghost story? A ghost is not something that can be reproduced in a laboratory. One can only examine the evidence, and then try to come to some conclusion.

And so, a group of eminent scholars, authors and scientists in England began investigating these mysterious happenings to see if there could be any truth to them. They called the apparitions "physic phenomena" and the group took the name Society for Physical Research. They agreed on strict rules of evidence, investigated the cases reported to them, and published their findings in a series of re-

ports called, "Proceedings." For the first time, a ghost story was subjected to the same kind of examination that was accorded to a witness in a court of law.

They divided ghosts and other phenomena into the following categories: quiet type, noisy ones, other types, restored scenes of the past, apparitions at the moment of death, ghosts with a mission, those that come and go and miscellaneous. We will discuss each type on these pages, and invite you readers to discuss them with us after reading our evidence. We will merely state each incident as it has been recorded and investigated, and the comments of you readers on each case will be printed in later issues . . . maybe between us we can come to some conclusion.

Our first type is the quiet type of ghost, and it is found in the town of Long Melford about sixty miles northeast of London, England. The spiritual guidance of the small hamlet was in the tiny church at the outskirts of town. It is the custom of each town to carry in a salaried position a rector for the church, which in this case dated from the twelfth century. And by a strange quirk of church law and custom, this position was the possession of the Bull family. The Reverend Henry D. E. Bull served the spiritual needs of his tiny flock from 1862 to 1892. Then he was succeeded by his sons, and grandsons.



A visitor, calling at the rectory, would be surprised to observe that the window at the left of the front door was bricked up, giving the effect of a blinded eye. This mortar work was the effort of the very first Reverend, Henry Bull. And the astonishing reason he gave was that he was constantly annoyed by the specter of a nun who habitually stood at the window and peered in at him while he sat at a table. Further inquiry revealed that this is the same nun who was, and still is, seen by countless other people through the ages.

Many legends developed to explain the specter of the nun. They varied from murder to love. But on these pages we do not accept legends as proof, so all we can state is that ages ago a nun from a nearby convent met a tragic death on the premises of the rectory, and ever since then she has "walked" the grounds.

These strange goings on (the apparition has appeared before countless people) came to the attention of Mr. Harry Price, member of the Society for Physical Research. Mr. Price is a frank skeptic, and nothing pleases him better than the opportunity to expose a fraud. And in June of 1929, along with his kit of instruments for testing out alleged hauntings he first went to the "haunted" rectory.

His first visit proved fruitful . . . for the nun made an appearance. As a further test

Mr. Price and his assistant, Mr. S. H. Glanville set up the table-tipping technique; if a spirit existed, it was to give one rap for a "no" answer, and three for "yes" in response to all questions.

The table began rocking promptly, and in response to the question, "Are you Henry Bull?" the answer was three raps! Then a message was worked out to the effect that the nun was sad because she wanted a Christian burial, that she had been interred in the southwest side of the rectory under a fir tree. Sure enough, a skeleton was found under a stone with the letter B.

Shortly afterwards, and in her home, Mr. Glanville's daughter Helen attempted the table-tipping experiment. This time the alleged communicator was the nun herself. This is her story: her name was Mary Lairre, and she came from Le Havre. She was nineteen when she died on May 17th, 1667. Death was by strangling by a man named Waldegrave who had taken her from the convent at Bures. She was unhappy, and "walked" because she never had a proper burial. She also stated that a monk was buried in the garden near her.

That's the complete story as we have the facts. A hoax? Perhaps, but we doubt it! Now let's hear your theories on this, the first of our ghost stories.



# BLACKHEADS "PET HATE"

## Say Men, Girls in Choosing Date

What a "black mark" is the blackhead... according to men and girls popular enough to be choosy about dates!

"Nobody's dreamboat!" "Nobody's date bait!" And that's not all that's said of those who are careless about blackheads. But blackheads ARE ugly! Blackheads ARE grimy! And they DON'T look good in close-ups!

So can you blame the fellow who says, "Sure, I meet lots of girls who look cute at first glance. But if, on that second glance, I see dingy blackheads, it's good night!"

Or can you blame the girl who confesses, "I hate to go out with a fellow who has blackheads. If he's careless about that you're sure he'll embarrass you in other ways, too!"

But you — are YOUR ears burning? Well, you've company and, sad to say, good company. There are lots of otherwise attractive fellows and girls who could date anyone they like if they'd only realize how offensive blackheads are... and how easily and quickly they could get rid of them... if they want to!

## "He-Man" Often Guilty of Blackhead Crime

Take your "he-man"... super at track, games, sports of all kinds... who thinks that after just a shower he's ready to go anywhere! And won't the girls all admire his muscles!

Sure they would! But not many dance floors are set up for hurdle races! You can't show off your snappy left hook when only cokes are in the ring. The "he-man" who's also clean-cut, will get the breaks wherever he is.

## Even Cute Girls

### Become Careless

Easy, too easy, for a girl to think that if she has the latest in clothes and hair-do she needn't bother about blackheads. A little more make-up, she guesses, will take care of that. BUT MAKE-UP WON'T HIDE BLACKHEADS! Not unless it's plaster of paris, maybe! And even good make-up "slips" at a dance! So don't take chances, cute though you may be!

### TAKE THESE TIPS TO BANISH BLACKHEADS

Keep skin clean by washing morning and night with warm, almost hot, water. Use good soap and plenty of it. And finish with cool water.

Extract every blackhead as soon as you see it—with a SAFE extractor. Don't use finger nails. Don't squeeze. That may mean infection, injured tissues, a marred skin.

Just be clean! Be quick! And be safe! That's easy! And that's ALL!



**FELLOWS! GIRLS!**  
Keep Skin Clear and Clean!

# UGLY BLACKHEADS OUT in Seconds with VACUTEX

## NEW! SCIENTIFIC! VACUUM ACTION!

Amazing new VACUTEX is painless... safe... fast! In seconds you are rid of those ugly blackheads that clog the pores... make your skin look grimy and dingy... give others such a wrong impression of you. VACUTEX creates a gentle vacuum pressure around the blackhead and extracts it—quickly!—without injury to tender skin tissues. Keep skin always clear this new scientific way. Without painful squeezing! Without dangerous infection from germ-y fingers! Just place VACUTEX over blackhead and draw back extractor. Blackhead's out! Simple! But you'll be delighted by your instantly improved appearance. Others will notice your clearer, cleaner skin! Try VACUTEX—now!



ACTUAL  
LENGTH  
3 1/2"

RUSH  
COUPON  
NOW!

**10 DAY  
TRIAL OFFER**

Don't send a penny. Mail coupon and pay postman only \$1.00 plus postage. Or save all postage by enclosing \$1.00 with guarantee coupon. If not thrilled to be rid of embarrassing hated blackheads this new quick way—just return VACUTEX in 10 days and get \$1 back. Order today!



**No Squeezing  
No Infection  
No Injury  
to Skin  
Tissues!**



Just place VACUTEX over blackhead—release extractor—and blackhead's out!

### 10 DAY TRIAL GUARANTEE

BALCO PRODUCTS COMPANY, Dept. CP-1,  
19 West 44th St., New York 18, N. Y.

☐ Enclosed find \$1.00. Send me VACUTEX postpaid.  
☐ Ship C.O.D. I will pay postman \$1.00 plus postage.  
My dollar will be refunded if I am not delighted.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

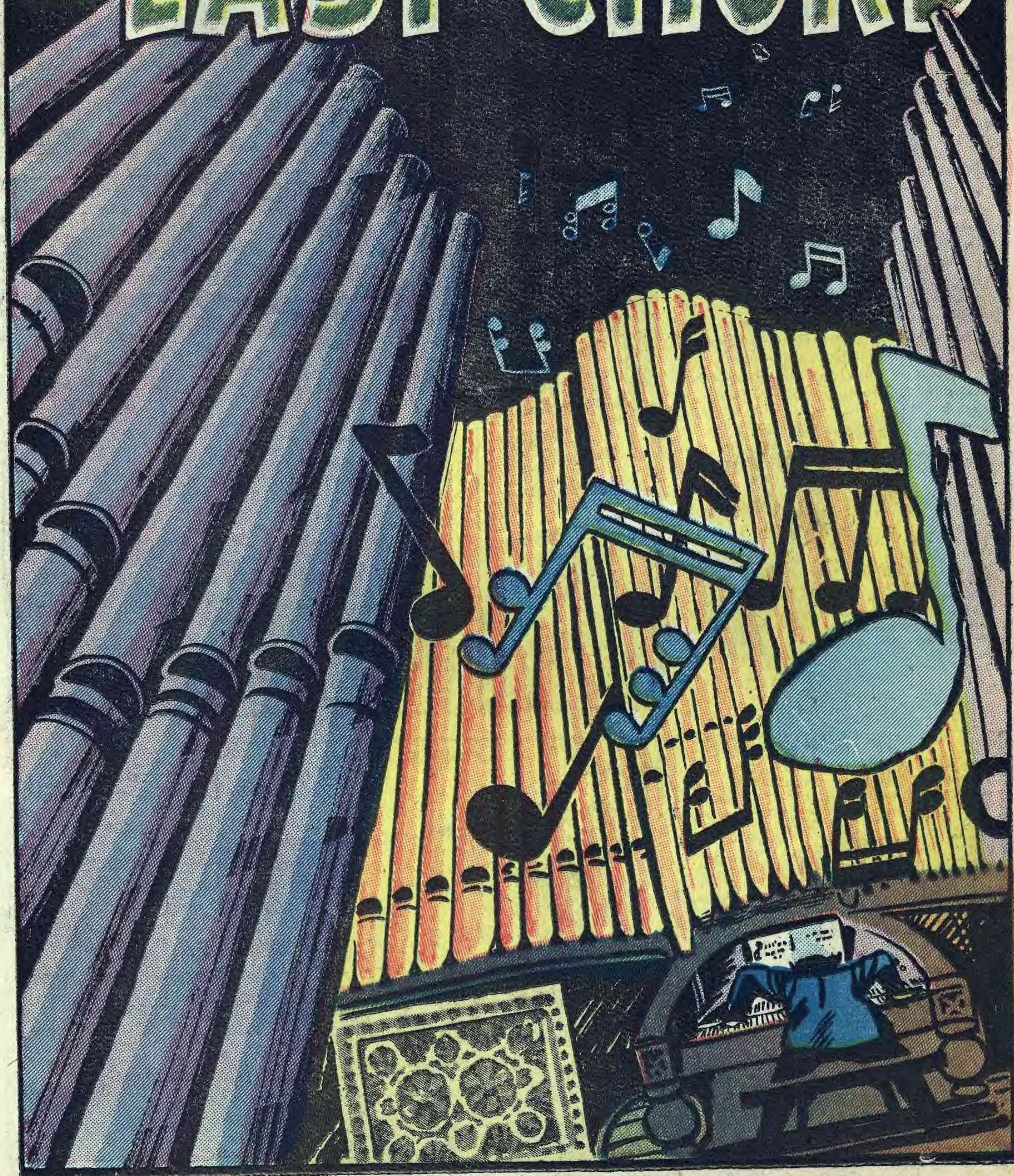
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SORRY NO C.O.D. OUTSIDE OF U.S.A.



OWEN FINLEY WAS A THIEF... HE DIDN'T STEAL MONEY... HE DIDN'T HOLD UP BANKS... BUT HE WAS STILL A CRIMINAL! FOR HE ROBBED PEOPLE'S MINDS! HE STOLE THEIR CREATIONS AND THEN PASSED THEM OFF AS HIS OWN! THIS IS THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED WHEN FINLEY WAS FORCED TO CREATE HIS OWN MASTERPIECE... AND OF HOW HE SUCCEEDED... THAT IS UNTIL HE CAME TO...

# The LAST CHORD





OUR STORY STARTS WITH OWEN FINLEY LEAVING THE OFFICES OF HIS AGENT...

ANOTHER CONCERT TOUR! THAT SHOULD BE GOOD FOR A COUPLE OF GRAND! THE FOOLS... THEY'LL PAY FOR ANYTHING!



AT THAT INSTANT...

MR. FINLEY! THAT WAS **MY SYMPHONY** YOU PLAYED LAST NIGHT. YOU **STOLE** IT FROM ME!

BUT WHO WILL **BELIEVE** YOU? IT'S YOUR WORD AGAINST MINE... NOW STOP BOTHERING ME OR I'LL CALL THE **POLICE!**



AND THERE YOU HAVE MR. OWEN FINLEY, THE **SYMPHONIC SWINDLER**, WHO STOLE THE NOTES FROM MEN'S **MINDS** AND TURNED THEM INTO **DOLLARS** FOR HIS OWN **POCKET!** HERE WE FIND HIM GETTING READY FOR HIS CONCERT TOUR... HIS LATEST **RHAPSODY OF ROBBERY!**



WHERE IS THE **FUGUE** THAT KID FROM OHIO SENT ME... WHAT THE... WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

NEVER MIND THAT, MR. FINLEY... I HAVE AN INTERESTING PROPOSITION FOR YOU...



I'M ALWAYS INTERESTED IN A PROPOSITION... ESPECIALLY IF IT'S **FINANCIAL!**

IT IS! I WILL PAY YOU **\$50,000** TO WRITE A **COMPOSITION** FOR ME!



...IT HAS TO BE A **FUNERAL DIRGE**... AND IT HAS TO BE FINISHED IN **SEVEN DAYS!**

A WEEK! THAT DOESN'T GIVE ME **MUCH TIME!** BUT I'LL DO IT... WHAT HAVE I GOT TO LOSE?



**FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS** WAS A LOT OF MONEY TO PAY FOR A **FUNERAL DIRGE**... BUT THAT WAS NO CONCERN OF OWEN FINLEY'S. HIS ONLY CONCERN WAS THE **\$50,000**... AND HOW HE COULD GO ABOUT GETTING IT! THAT WAS TOUGH... THERE WASN'T ENOUGH TIME TO GO OUT AND STEAL SOMEBODY ELSE'S. HE HAD TO WRITE IT HIMSELF! BUT HOW? HE COULDN'T WRITE A NOTE OF MUSIC!



\$50,000... THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN **WAITING** FOR... ONE BIG KILLING AND THEN I CAN GET OUT OF THIS **RACKET!** WHAT A SUCKER THAT GUY IS!



**YES** IT IS A LOT OF MONEY... AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO COLLECT IT IS TO WRITE A **DIRGE**... BUT HOW... HOW... **HOW!**

I'VE GOT TO **WRITE** IT... I CAN'T LET THAT **MONEY** JUST SLIP THROUGH MY FINGERS... I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY... THERE MUST BE AN **ANSWER!**



**S**UDDENLY THE ANSWER APPEARED... SOMETHING **GUIDED** HIS FINGERS TO THE KEYBOARD AND THE FIRST SOLEMN NOTES OF THE **DIRGE** WERE HEARD. **UNSEEN HANDS** THAT GAVE OWEN FINLEY THE KEY TO THE \$50,000... AND THAT ALSO GAVE HIM THE **TALENT** THAT HE HAD ALWAYS LACKED!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING, BUT SOMETHING IS **DRIVING** ME ON AND ON TO FINISH THIS **DIRGE!**



... AND I CAN'T STOP... I'VE GOT TO WRITE IT! EVEN THOUGH THE NOTES AREN'T MINE I CAN'T STOP!



ON AND ON THROUGH THE NIGHT HE WORKED! THROUGH THE NEXT DAY AND THEN THE NEXT NIGHT! IT WAS LIKE A PULSATING **FEVER** THAT ROSE HIGHER AND HIGHER TO A FEVERISH **PITCH**... A PITCH THAT CAME TO A CRASHING CRESCENDO AS HE APPROACHED... **THE LAST CHORD!**

I'VE GOT TO CONTINUE... I CAN'T... I MUST... GO... ON... ON... **ON!**



THE LAST CHORD! I MUSTN'T WRITE IT... I MUSTN'T...



... BUT I CAN'T HELP IT... I'VE GOT TO PUT IT DOWN... GOT TO...

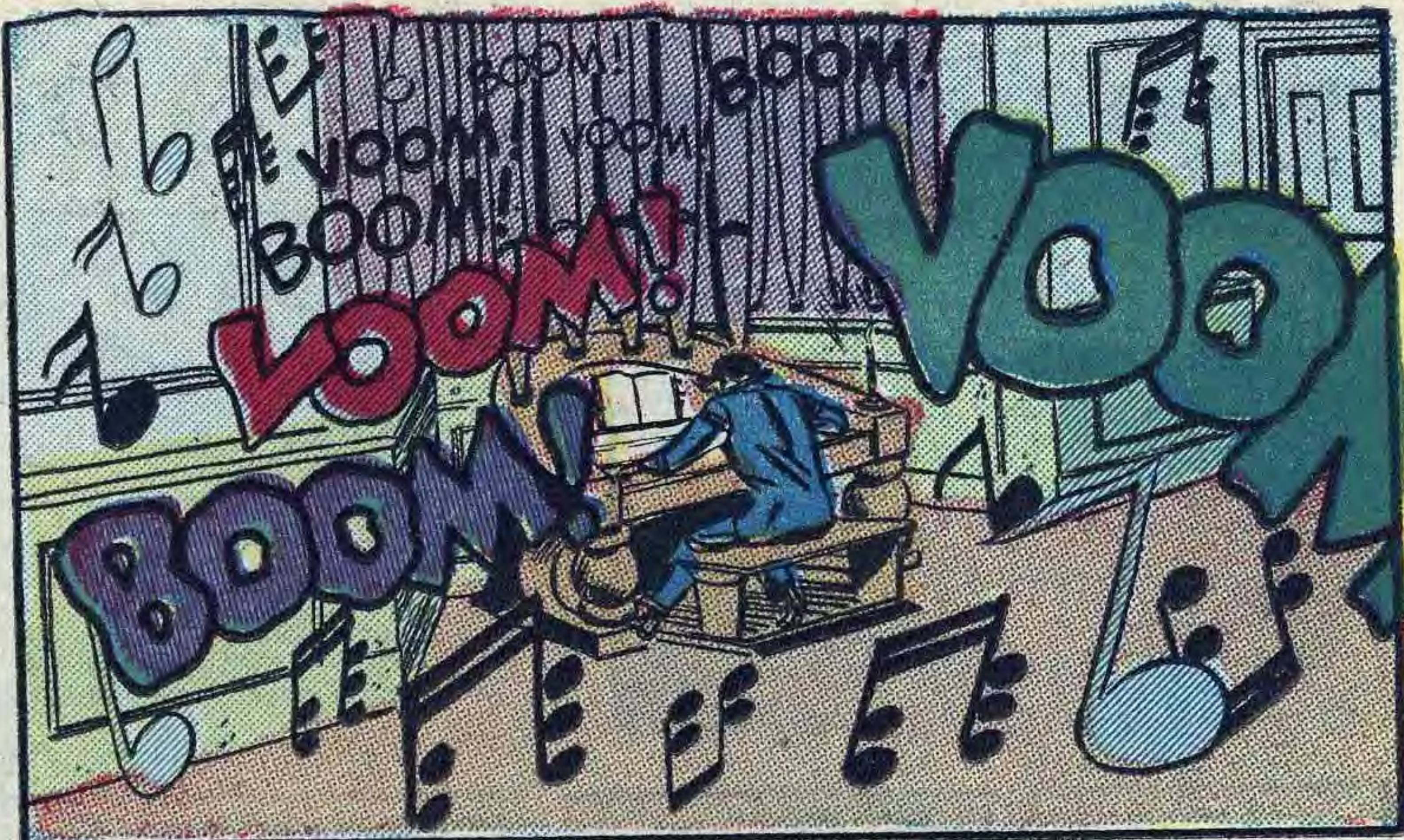




THERE, I'M DONE! IT'S DOWN ON PAPER! NOW TO PLAY IT... THE COMPLETE DIRGE...



...THE NOTES CRASHED AGAINST THE WALLS ECHOING AND RE-ECHOING THEIR MOURNFUL TALE AGAIN AND AGAIN...



...IT WAS ONE OF THE STRANGEST TALES EVER TOLD...A TALE OF DEATH! FOR AS HIS FINGERS STRUCK THE LAST CHORD OF HIS COMPOSITION OWEN FINLEY FELL IN A HEAP OVER THE KEYBOARD... DEAD!!



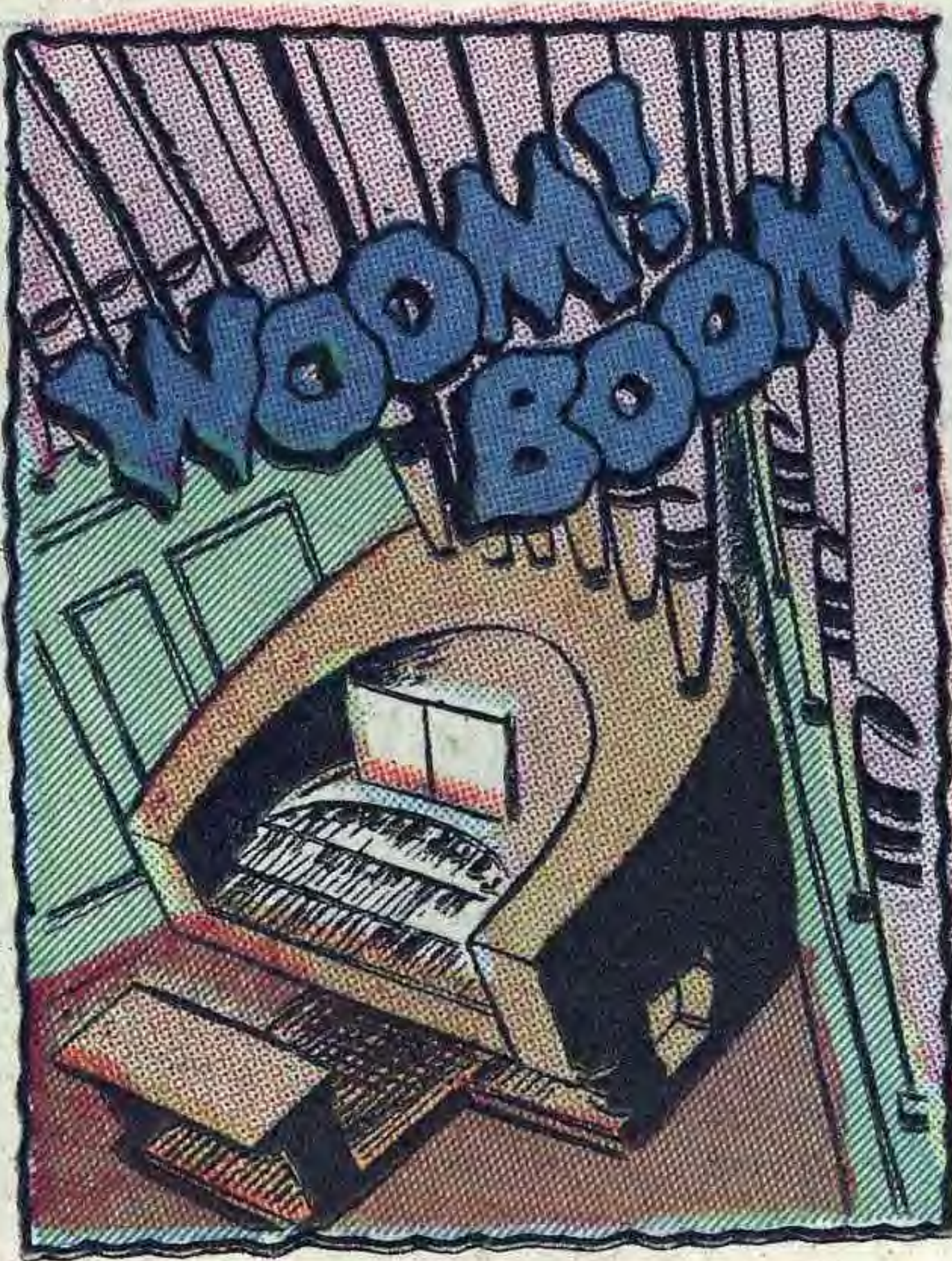
A FEW DAYS LATER THE FUNERAL TOOK PLACE...



...SUDDENLY, AS THE LAST SHOVELFUL OF DIRT WAS THROWN ON THE GRAVE...



WHAT THE... IT CAN'T BE... THERE'S NOBODY THERE!



HIS OWN FUGUE AT HIS OWN FUNERAL! VERY HANDY! OR SHALL WE SAY, "LOOK, MOTHER, NO HANDS!" NO GETTING AWAY FROM IT, THOUGH-- YOU CAN GET THIS KIND OF ORGAN PLAYING DIRGE CHEAP! HEH HEH HEH!







# MR. MYSTERY'S MORGUE

Hey, what gives here? How come so little space? Whatsa matter, afraid I'll get too popular? (*No, just a little law that says we have to print the Statement of Ownership once a year... ed*) Since when did you start worrying about the law? Who do you think you're kidding? (*Never mind about that, get back to work... ed*) Work! Work! Work! That's all I hear from you guys. How about a break once in a while? (*Now don't start complaining... you never had it so good! ed*) Ha! That's a laugh! Why, without me where would you guys be? (*Probably in a respectable business making a good living... ed*) Living! Don't mention that word around me, I'm only interested in the dead! And so are my readers! (*What graveyard did you dig that up in? ed*) Don't you read the mail? That's the kind of stories my readers are interested in. Ghastly little tales of terror about ghouls and goblins, vampires and werewolves, monsters and horror! Sure, I asked them to write in telling me what they wanted to see in each issue and that's what they said. And any of you other readers who have a comment or a suggestion, or even a gripe, just drop a line to:

MR. MYSTERY'S MORGUE  
ARAGON MAGAZINES, INC.  
949 Broadway  
New York 10, New York

Hey, get a load of this letter! Just came in.

Dear Mr. M.:

... picked up another company's book ... saw a story in it which was very similar to one of yours ... how about that!

ARTY WARMBRAND  
Mineral Wells, Texas

I've arrived! Imitation is the first sign of success, so I won't complain this time! (*Hey, you're running out of space... better knock it off... ed*) All right already, so I'll close now! So long for now, readers, see you next issue... with a full page. And don't forget to write to:

MR. MYSTERY

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 238) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF

MISTER MYSTERY, published bi-monthly at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1952.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher: Stanley P. Morse	175 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.
Editor: Harry Kantor	175 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.
Managing Editor: Raymond Gill	175 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.
Business Manager: Michael Morse	175 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.)

Name	Address
ARAGON MAGAZINES, INC.	949 Broadway, New York 10, N. Y.
Stanley P. Morse	175 Fifth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.
Michael Morse	175 Fifth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: none.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

STANLEY P. MORSE, Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of September, 1952.  
MAURICE COYNE, my commission expires March 30, 1954.



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**H**IS SCIENTIFIC MIND STRAINED UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THE SEARCH... A SEARCH WHOSE END WOULD BRING HIM THE FULFILLMENT OF A LIFE'S DREAM... A SEARCH FOR...

# IMMORTALITY!



YOU'RE NOT REALLY CONTINUING THOSE IMMORTALITY EXPERIMENTS, ARE YOU, DR. ROBBINS? ESPECIALLY AFTER THE LAST FAILURE...

YOU'RE STILL ONLY MY ASSISTANT, LYONS, SO WATCH WHAT YOU SAY! IF I WANT TO CONTINUE THOSE TESTS THAT'S MY BUSINESS!





...AND DR. ROBBINS MEANT TO CONTINUE THOSE TESTS! HE HAD GONE TOO FAR TO STOP NOW!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! THE FIGURES CHECK OUT AND THE SEQUENCES ARE RIGHT! THE FORMULA HAS TO BE TRUE... IT HAS TO BE!

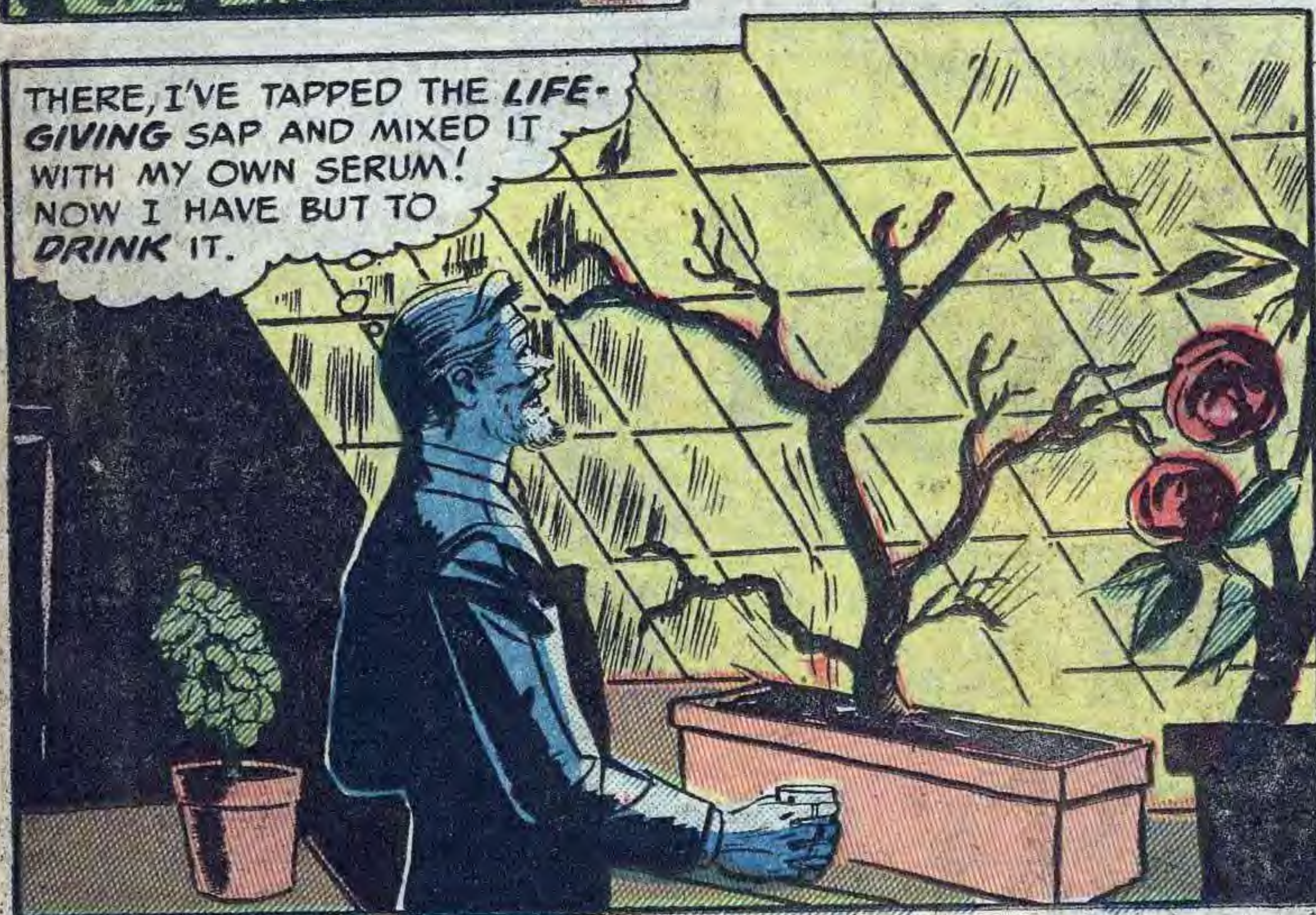


EARLY THE NEXT MORNING IN THE LABORATORY...

THIS WILL BE MY FINAL TEST! IF IT FAILS I'M GIVING UP THE EXPERIMENT! BUT I WON'T FAIL! NOT THIS TIME!



THERE, I'VE TAPPED THE LIFE-GIVING SAP AND MIXED IT WITH MY OWN SERUM! NOW I HAVE BUT TO DRINK IT.



THE LAB ASSISTANT, LYONS, HAD BEEN WATCHING THE EXPERIMENT AND WAS QUICK TO MAKE HIS PRESENCE FELT...

STILL AT IT, EH, DOC? OH WELL, GUESS YOU OLD TIMERS NEVER KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP!

LYONS! YOU WERE SPYING ON ME!

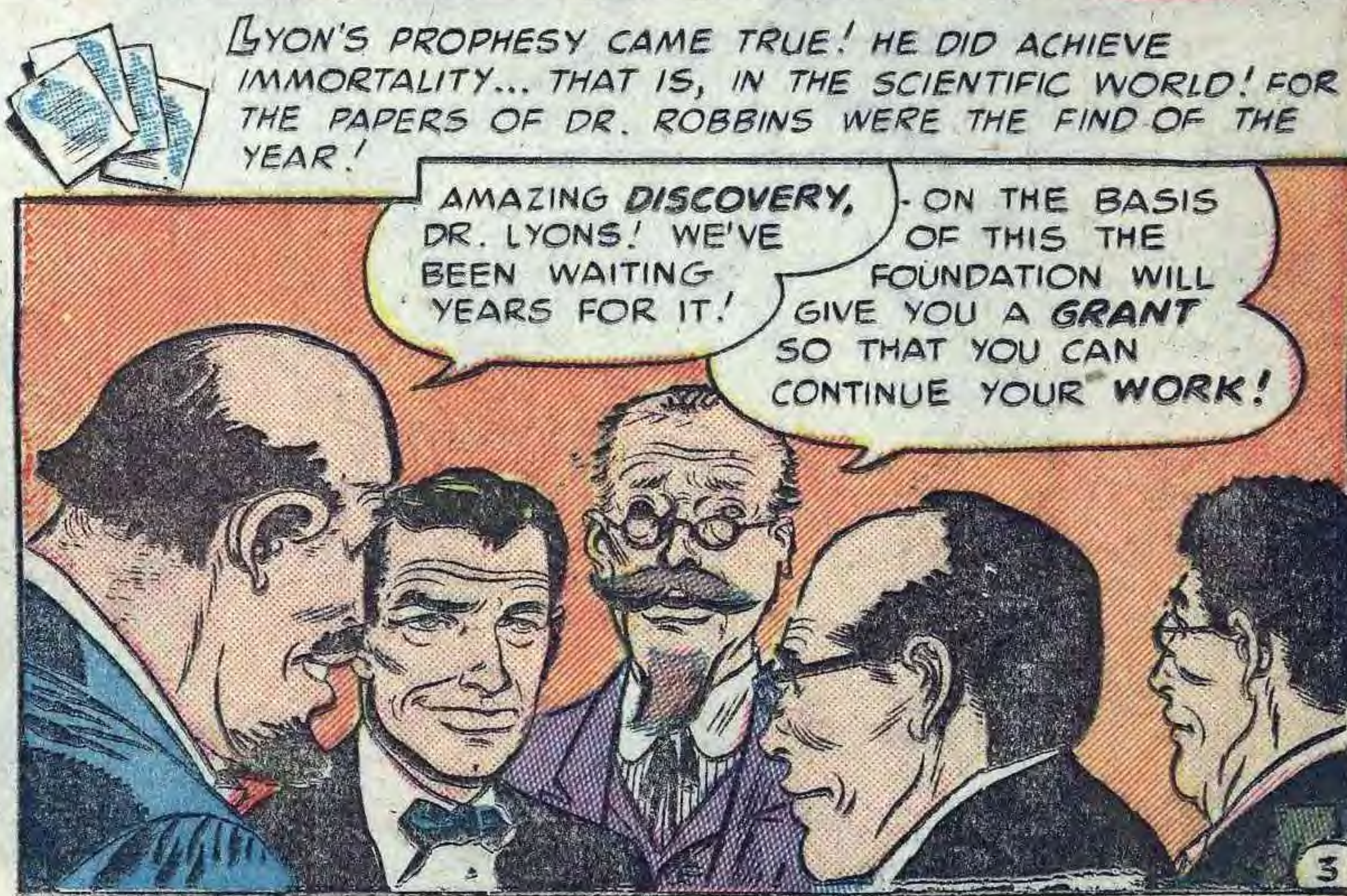


YOU'RE OUT TO STEAL MY FORMULA... YOU WANT THE SECRET OF IMMORTALITY FOR YOURSELF!

BUT DOC, I WAS ONLY...









MEANWHILE, IN THE DARK DESOLATE PLACE A STRANGE TRANSFORMATION WAS TAKING PLACE... A TRANSFORMATION FROM THE SECRET OF LIFE ITSELF!



A YEAR LATER, THE NOW FAMOUS LYONS PAID A VISIT TO THE GRAVE OF HIS ILLFATED BENEFACITOR!

I DON'T KNOW WHY I'VE COME... SOMETHING SEEMED TO DRAW ME HERE! PERHAPS IT WAS JUST TO LAUGH AT YOU AND YOUR DREAMS OF IMMORTALITY!



... THAT TREE! WHERE DID IT COME FROM! AND THAT LAUGH... IT'S...



THERE WAS NO EXPLANATION! THE TWISTED GNARLED BRANCHES ENTWINED THEMSELVES AROUND THE STRUGGLING FIGURE... FIRST THERE WAS A SCREAM... THEN SILENCE... THEN DEATH...



SO LYONS THOUGHT DR. ROBBINS WAS A SAP! WELL, MAYBE HE WAS... BUT THIS SAP, COURSGING THROUGH THE VEINS OF A STRANGE TREE COULD, PERHAPS, HAVE IN SOME CURIOUS WAY ACHIEVED IMMORTALITY!



THE END



GHOSTS? BAH! WHO BELIEVED IN THEM? SWAMIS? A PHONY...  
JUST A RACKET! THAT'S WHAT DETECTIVE DAN DREWS  
THOUGHT. AT LEAST UNTIL HE MET UP WITH...

# The **UNEXPECTED!**





OUR STORY STARTS AT  
POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

I TELL YOU,  
EDDIE, THIS GUY'S A **PHONY**! HE'S BEEN PULL-  
ING THIS SWAMI DEAL ALL OVER THE COUNTRY!

YEAH, I READ THE FOLDER! BUT HE'S NEVER  
BEEN CONVICTED! ALWAYS JUST AN ARRAIGN-  
MENT ON **SUSPICION OF FRAUD**!



THAT'S BECAUSE NOBODY DUG UP ANY  
**EVIDENCE** ON HIM! HE WAS SMART  
ENOUGH TO GET **RID** OF IT BEFORE  
HIS PLACES WERE RAIDED!

I TALKED  
TO SOME  
OF THOSE  
DETECTIVES  
WHO BUSTED IN ON  
HIS SEANCES. **THERE  
JUST WASN'T  
ANY EVIDENCE  
TO BE HAD!**



I DON'T WANT YOU TO  
THINK I'M NUTS, DAN, BUT  
MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING  
TO THIS GUY! I READ SOME  
PAPERS ABOUT HIM... THEY  
CLAIM HE'S **NO  
FAKER!**

YOU'RE CRAZY IF YOU  
BELIEVE THAT! THIS  
GUY'S A **PHONY**  
AND I'M GONNA  
**PROVE IT!**



C'MON, HE'S HAVING A **SEANCE** TONIGHT...  
WE'RE GONNA SIT IN ON IT!

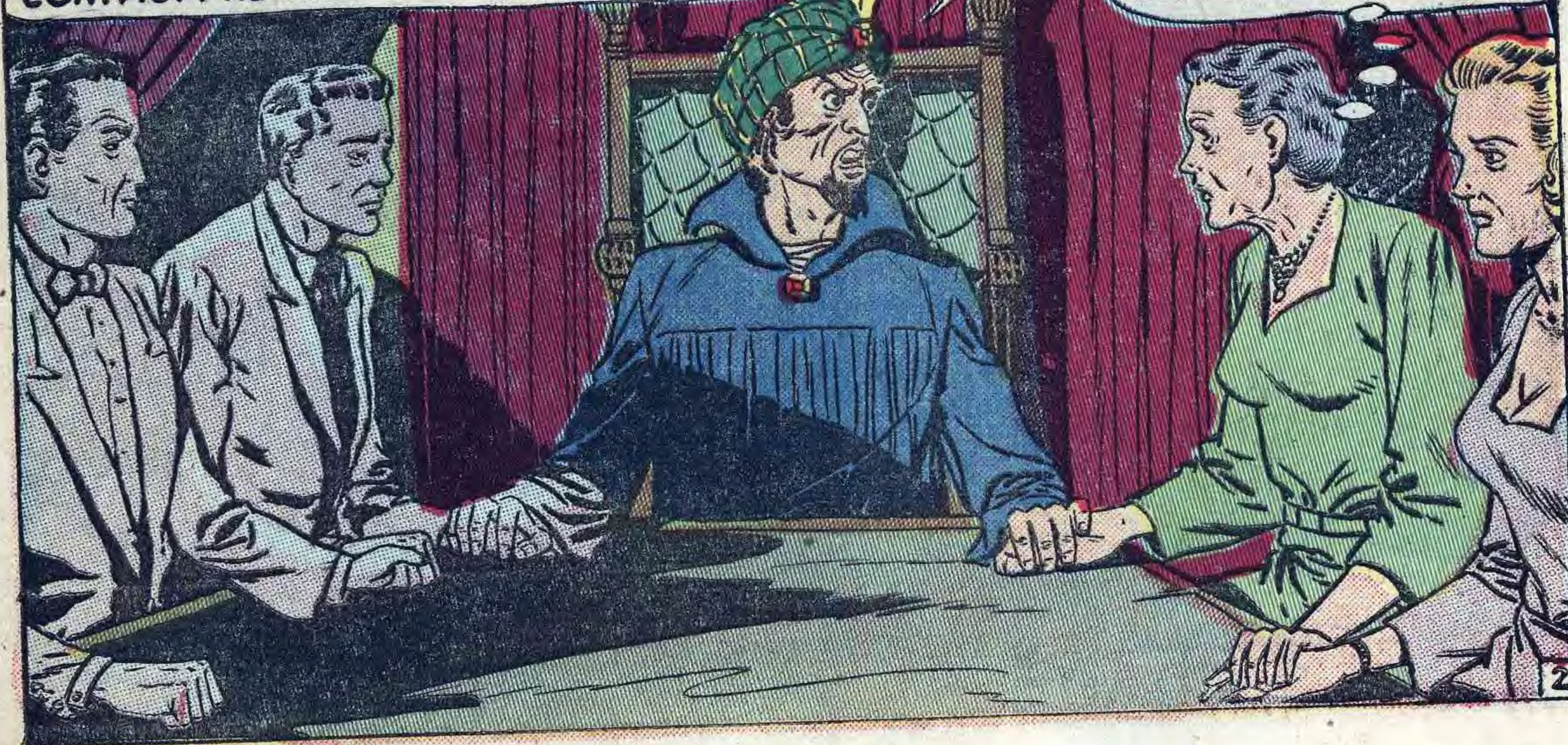


AND THAT NIGHT AS THE SEANCE GOT UNDER WAY...

MRS. DEVOE, IT IS YOUR DEAR, DEPARTED HUSBAND THAT IS TRYING TO MAKE  
**CONTACT! HE WISHES TO SPEAK TO YOU!**

YOU MUST CONCENTRATE,

OH DEAR, DEAR...  
I'M TRYING SO HARD...  
JOHN, JOHN, I **MUST**  
SEE YOU AGAIN... PLEASE...







OH GHOST OF THE **SPIRIT WORLD** SOMEONE NEAR AND DEAR TO YOU IS TRYING TO MAKE CONTACT! TRY... TRY... **TRY TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE!**



WHAT AN **ACT!** THIS GUY REALLY HAS IT DOWN PAT!

THERE CAN'T BE ANYTHING TO THIS... THERE JUST **CAN'T!**



I HAVE HEARD YOUR **SUMMONS**, OH **SWAMI**, AND I HAVE ANSWERED! I WISH TO SPEAK TO MY DEAR WIFE, LUCY DEVOE!

**IT IS JOHN! IT IS JOHN!**



BUT MRS. DEVOE WAS NOT AS SIMPLE AS SHE SEEMED, AND BEFORE ACCEPTING THE VISION AS THAT OF HER HUSBAND SHE PUT IT TO A SIMPLE TEST!

WHAT DOES THE NAME **RED HORNET** MEAN TO YOU?

RED HORNET? THAT WAS THE NAME OF MY **RACING SLOOP!** DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE WON THE LARCHMONT TRIALS IN IT IN 1941?



IT'S REALLY JOHN! ONLY YOU **COULD KNOW** THAT! TELL ME WHAT YOU WILL... THE **SWAMI** SAID YOU'D HAVE **ADVICE** FOR ME!

ASKS OF YOU. I WILL PASS MY ADVICE ON TO HIM!... YOU MUST OBEY! **IT IS FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT!**



NOW I MUST RETURN TO THE **SPIRIT WORLD!** BUT I WILL COME **BACK!**

**YOU MUST!** YOU HAVE GIVEN ME SUCH RENEWED FAITH THAT NOW I CAN GO ON **LIVING!**



IT WAS A PERFECT ACT... EVEN FOOLED ME! BUT IT DIDN'T FOOL DETECTIVE DAN DREWS... NOT ONE BIT...



AND THE NEXT DAY... MAYBE THERE IS SOMETHING TO THIS SWAMI, DAN. I CHECKED WITH MRS. DEVOE AND SHE'S CONVINCED THAT **VISION** WAS HER **HUSBAND**!



THE FOOL! WHAT AN **IMAGINATION** SHE HAS!

HOW ABOUT **MONEY**? WE CAN GET HIM ON THAT!

BUT SHE'S NEVER GIVEN HIM A **DIME**! AND HE'S NEVER ASKED FOR ANY!



I TELL YOU, DAN, MAYBE THIS GUY IS **ON THE LEVEL**! THIS SPIRITUALISM ISN'T AS PHONY AS IT SEEMS! WHY I REMEMBER ONCE...

NEVER MIND THAT! I SAY HE'S AS **PHONY** AS A THREE DOLLAR BILL, AND I'M GONNA **PROVE** IT!



**AAIEEE!**

**EDDIE! WATCH OUT!**



AND A FEW MINUTES LATER...

CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR HIM NOW... IT'S TOO LATE!

**NO! NO! NOT EDDIE!**







DAN BROODED ABOUT EDDIE'S DEATH...  
YOU DON'T LOSE YOUR PAL AND  
THEN JUST FORGET ABOUT IT...

I **KILLED** HIM! IF I DIDN'T STOP  
TO ARGUE HE'D STILL BE **ALIVE**!  
THE LEAST I CAN DO IS TO **CON-**  
**VICT** THAT SWAMI... AND I'LL  
DO IT... EVEN IF IT  
TAKES THE REST OF  
MY LIFE!



THAT NIGHT DAN RETURNED TO THE SWAMI'S FOR  
THE SEANCE...

AND HERE'S WHERE I'M GONNA  
FIND THE EVIDENCE... IT'S **GOT** TO BE HERE,  
EDDIE... AND I'M GONNA FIND IT!



QUIET, PLEASE, WE MUST  
HAVE SILENCE! WE ALL  
MUST CONCENTRATE ON  
TRYING TO REACH THOSE  
OF THE **SPIRIT WORLD**!

I'M CONCENTRATING ALL RIGHT,  
BUT NOT ON WHAT YOU THINK!  
MISTER, TONIGHT I'M GONNA  
**PROVE** THAT YOU'RE A  
**PHONY**!



I **CAN'T** SEEM TO **CONTACT** YOUR  
HUSBAND, MRS. DEVOE! SOMETHING OR  
**SOMEONE** SEEMS TO BE **BLOCKING**  
THE **CONTACT**!



A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

YOU'VE MADE **CONTACT**!  
BUT IT'S NOT HER HUSBAND!  
IT'S ... BUT IT **CAN'T**  
**BE! EDDIE--**





YES, IT'S ME, DAN! SEE, I TOLD YOU THAT THERE WAS **SOMETHING** TO THIS **SPIRITUALISM** ... IT'S ON THE **LEVEL**! YOU CAN'T PIN ANYTHING ON THE SWAMI... BECAUSE THERE ISN'T ANYTHING TO PIN!



NOBODY'S **SEEN** MUCH OF DAN SINCE THAT NIGHT. GUESS THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE TO **LOOK** FOR HIM... BUT WE KNOW, DON'T WE? ANY OLD **SEANCE** WILL DO... HEH... HEH... HEH...



DON'T THROW THOSE OLD COMICS AWAY! THEY'RE WORTH SOMETHING! SEND YOUR USED COMICS TO...

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